

## 29th Infantry Division remembers D-Day, 75 years later

A group of 25 National Guard Soldiers from Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina and Kentucky assigned to the Fort Belvoir-based 29th Infantry Division joined more than 1,300 U.S. service members, partnered with 950 troops from across Europe and Canada, in northwestern France to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Operation Overlord, the WWII Allied invasion of Normandy, commonly known as D-Day. Upwards of 80 ceremonies in 40 French communities in the region took place between June 1-9, 2019, the apex being held June 6 at the American Cemetery at Coleville sur Mer where Sgt. 1st Class Paul Bosserman, the 29th Infantry Division Non-commissioned Officer of the Year, assisted with presenting a wreath during the ceremony.

The division's delegation participated in 20 events across the nine-day celebration. Each of the commemorative ceremonies varied in size, scope, and specific focus, but all were held together by a collective thread of honoring our past to secure the future.

"We're here to honor the 29th Infantry Division landing here 75 years ago on D-Day," explained Sgt. Charles Vaughn, a Soldier currently assigned to the 29th ID.

Read more: <https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/06/13/13667/>



Staff Sgt. Leonard "Check" Jindra, a 29th Infantry Division D-Day veteran, meets with a current 29th ID Soldier June 5, 2019, in France.

### Virginia National Guard News Headlines

#### Veterans, retirees volunteer time, effort to help restore historic Duster

Every Thursday at the Virginia National Guard's Sergeant Bob Slaughter Headquarters at Defense Supply Center Richmond, Virginia, a spirited group of veterans and retirees comes together with chisels, scrapers, sanders and other tools to tackle a unique restoration project with historical significance.

Read more: <https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/06/21/13635/>

#### Gibbs takes responsibility of Fort Bragg Warrior Transition Battalion

Command Sgt. Maj. Terry Gibbs took responsibility as the senior noncommissioned officer of the Fort Bragg Warrior Transition Battalion from Command Sgt. Maj. Dempsey O. Whitt June 13, 2019, at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Read more: <https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/06/14/13662/>

#### 276th Engineers tackle Fort Pickett improvements during AT

Soldiers assigned to the Petersburg-based 276th Engineer Battalion made significant progress in efforts to improve some of Fort Pickett's training areas during their annual training June 1-15, 2019, at Fort Pickett, Virginia.

Read more: <https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/06/26/13631/>

#### 576th Engineer Detachment constructs, repairs facilities at SMR

Soldiers assigned to the Onancock-based 576th Engineer Utilities Detachment constructed new training facilities and repaired current ones at the State Military Reservation in Virginia Beach, Virginia, during their AT June 8-22, 2019.

Read more: <https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/06/25/13675/>

### Join the Virginia Army National Guard, Virginia Air National Guard or the Virginia Defense Force

For information about joining the Virginia Army National Guard, the Virginia Air National Guard or Virginia Defense Force, visit the appropriate link below:

#### Va. Army National Guard

<http://nationalguard.com/va>

#### Va. Air National Guard

<https://www.192fw.ang.af.mil/join>

#### Va. Defense Force

<http://vdf.virginia.gov/joinvdf/>

### Join the Virginia Army National Guard Alumni Network

<https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/vngan/>

# Va. National Guard hosts inaugural Women's Summit

The Virginia National Guard hosted their inaugural Women's Summit June 19, 2019, at Fort Pickett, Virginia. Women from across the force attended the event focused on balancing the demands of women's personal and professional lives.

"Women are far more likely to leave the military after their initial service obligation," explained 1st Lt. Lindsey Otto, special programs officer for the Recruiting and Retention Battalion, citing a recent Department of Defense study. "Overwhelmingly, the number one reason why they left was tension between work and life."

Balancing a Guard career in a full-time or traditional status can be challenging, especially for women as they manage the demands of life outside the military, from attending college or starting a civilian career to starting a family and becoming a mother.

"We want to demonstrate to our younger leaders and our younger Soldiers that the senior leaders at the state level and at their unit are invested in finding out if there's more we can do to help these Soldiers continue serving," Otto said. "We've already invested so much and geared them up to be professionals and we want to retain that as best we can."

At the summit, women gathered in small groups for breakout sessions that focused on a variety of topics including fitness, nutrition, personal finance, women's history, leadership skills and working out the conflicts that sometimes arise between work demands and personal demands.

Sgt. Mary Soliday, a chaplain's assistant with the 229th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, shared her story, telling the group she served in the Marines when she was younger, then had a 17-year break in service before joining the National Guard. During the break, she became a mother to six children and said she came back into the military because, "I just want to show my six kids that their mom is more than just their mom."

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Michele S. Jones, currently the vice chair of the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services, delivered her keynote address in the final hour of the summit and talked about her leadership style. During her 25-year military career, she was the first female to hold a number of positions and became the first woman to take responsibility of an Army component, serving as the command sergeant major for the U.S. Army Reserve. She achieved the rank of sergeant major in just 14 years. As a woman who broke barriers and who often found herself being questioned by her peers, she learned to stop justifying her seat at the table.

"You still have to prove yourself, you still have to exhibit certain things that other people don't have to exhibit," Jones said. "It's the challenges that make us the strong individuals that we are, and the best leaders."

Jones split the attendees into small groups and told them they had 10 minutes to come up with a one minute dance routine. Beyond that, she gave no guidance and, following the presentation of the dance routines, she said, "You all met mission. You all did



**Soldiers participate in the inaugural Women's Summit, hosted by the Virginia National Guard's Recruiting and Retention Battalion and held June 19, 2019, at Fort Pickett, Virginia.**

it. And that's what it's all about."

In the future, Otto said she'd like to see the event expand to include more participants, both male and female, as well as more senior leaders.

"If we can show the leaders that these are the issues that matter to our Soldiers, then those are the ones who can carry the issues outside the summit and make real change," she said. She's hopeful the success of the inaugural event will motivate more people to attend next year. "Now we have some cheerleaders who can go and spread the word and advertise it."

Read more: <https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/06/24/13654/>

## MORE ON THE WEB

### Riggers reflect on D-Day heroics 75 years after operation

<https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/06/12/13694/>

### Gunnery simulators augment Army Guard training

<https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/06/19/13697/>

### Photos: Virginia HART practices confined space rescues

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/albums/72157709173891803>

### Photos: Soldiers face final challenge of Rappel Master

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/albums/72157709128101892>

### Photos: 229th MPs conduct critical site security training

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/albums/72157709254142032>



@VaNationalGuard



@VaNationalGuard



@VaNationalGuard

